

SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS?

AN INVITATION TO
NON-MUSLIMS

BY SHAYKH SAALIH AS-SINDEE



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P.O. Box 110562
Durham, NC 27709
(919) 998 6897
www.jayyidbooks.com
jayyidbooks@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Happiness is a common goal that everyone strives to attain. Philosophers, intellectuals, doctors, and artists alike have all strived in search of the causes of happiness and ways to escape anxiety.

The reality is, however, that the proposed solutions achieve only partial or superficial happiness. They are more or less like drugs which only provide temporary relief; when their effect wears off, anxieties return twofold.

The following words invite you to ultimate happiness and will lead you to true success. But before you begin reading, I hope that you take a moment to try to open your heart and mind--as the intelligent one is he who searches for the truth no matter where it lies.

An undeniable reality is that permanent happiness cannot be achieved except by believing in Allah¹

¹ The name Allah is the Arabic name for 'the God'; the God of the Universe, the God of Abraham, the God of Moses, the God of Jesus, the God of all mankind. This name is used by all Arabic speaking people, Jews, Christians and Muslims worldwide.

(God)--The Creator--and following His guidance. Since it is He who created mankind, He is the one who knows what pleases and benefits them, just as He knows what saddens and harms them. A number of psychologists have affirmed that only a religious person lives with true contentment and serenity. So, if believing in Allah (God) leads to ultimate happiness, then how can this be achieved?

There are numerous religions and a variety of creeds. However, their critical differences in core issues make it impossible for all of them to be correct. So which is the correct religion? What is the correct creed that Allah (God) requires us to believe in and, in the end, pleases Him? And which one of these creeds guarantees us happiness in this life and in the hereafter?

Before answering these questions, a criterion must first be established to be used as a basis for correctly determining the true religion. I firmly believe that all sensible people will agree that a religion is not deemed correct simply due to the fact that one was raised in that religion, had parents that adhered to it, or lived in a society that practiced it. Rather, a religion's accuracy and authenticity are based upon substantial evidence and firm intellectual proofs.

Intellect, which is the distinguishing factor between mankind and animals, must be applied when studying the issue of religion, which is undeniably the most important and gravest of all matters.

A short journey into the world of religions and sifting through various creeds could prove to be a good method in arriving at the desired conclusion. In order to save you the time and effort, I say with full conviction and confidence that no matter how much you investigate this issue, you will only arrive at one reality: That the true and correct religion is Islam and that true happiness and contentment lies within it.

Before you hastily rebut this statement and stop reading, please realize that completing the rest (of this book) would not harm you at all; and it may in fact benefit you. Also, remember that you have an intellect by which you can distinguish things and determine truth from falsehood.

WHY ISLAM?

This is an important question, indicating that the questioner is mature and enlightened. In response, I say:

Islam is a religion that includes a number of merits and characteristics that are absent from other religions. These characteristics alone, serve as convincing evidence that Islam is the true religion of Allah (God). You can determine the authenticity of this statement by contemplating them.

Islam's many merits and characteristics make it impossible to elaborate on all of them. However, some of the most important can be summarized as follows:

- Amongst the greatest merits of Islam is that it fulfills the spiritual aspects of the human being and enables those who embrace it to have an ongoing connection with Allah (God). This makes it possible for them to be at ease spiritually. It shields them from chaos, being lost or feeling (spiritually) empty, and protects from mental instability.

ISLAM'S FUNDAMENTAL TENETS

Understanding all of Islam's teachings in a short article is impossible. However, briefly discussing some of its fundamental tenets should assist in further clarifying the religion for those who are interested.

All of Islam's regulations and teachings are important, but some have precedence over others. There are six essential articles of faith that one must believe in, and five pillars that one's faith must be built upon.

As for the six articles of faith that must be believed in, they are:

- 1) **Believing in Allah (God) alone, associating no partners unto Him in worship.** This is done by believing that Allah, alone, is the Creator of this universe, and everything that is within it and that it is He, alone, who disposes of its affairs as He sees fit. Consequently, worship can only be offered

to Him, alone. Worship is implementing the teachings of Islam and its legislation while believing that all other religions are false.

- 2) **Believing in the Angels.** Angels were created by Allah but we cannot see them. They worship Allah and never disobey Him. Allah orders them to carry out many of the universe's affairs. The Angel Gabriel (peace be upon him), for example, delivers Allah's revelation to the messengers. Another is Mikail (peace be upon him), who is entrusted with the affairs of rain. Still there are other Angels responsible for writing the deeds of mankind--deeds which they will be held accountable for on the Day of Resurrection. It is essential to believe that all of the Angels act solely upon the order of Allah and do only what He wills.

- 3) **Believing in the Books of Revelation.** This means to believe that Allah revealed books to His servants comprising of His words. These books contain bliss for mankind by clarifying what Allah is pleased with as well as what He dislikes. The Angel charged with delivering revelation to the Prophets is Gabriel (peace be upon him) the greatest of

CONCLUSION

Hopefully what has preceded is sufficient in clarifying—in a summarized fashion—some of the merits of Islam. I invite all who have not yet entered into the fold of Islam to listen to a sincere invitation from one who only wants good for you: Save yourself before death takes you by surprise; and thus, you die upon other than Islam—what a great loss that is!

Do you know what dying upon other than Islam means? It means that you would enter the Hellfire, abiding therein for eternity. This is what Allah has warned all those who die without embracing Islam. So why would you take a chance with an issue as grave as this?

I am going to ask you a question that I want you to answer honestly:

What would you lose if you embraced Islam?

If you embrace Islam, you can continue living your normal ordinary life, but in a more spiritual, organized, and pleasant fashion...and after death, tremendous delight and eternal pleasure await you.

If you have reached a level of conviction, believing that Islam is the true religion, but fear that embracing Islam would prevent you from enjoying pleasures that you cannot live without, then compare these temporary pleasures with eternal pleasure. Which of the two should be given preference?

Furthermore, you can embrace Islam and then gradually try to reduce such pleasures. And if you were to honestly invoke Allah, He would surely aid you in leaving them. In any case, embracing Islam and having shortcomings is better than not embracing Islam at all.

If the barrier between you and Islam is due to having a weak personality, the inability to make such a big decision, or because you fear that people may talk about you or mock you, know that these are just unrealistic thoughts. You would not be the first person to embrace Islam; a lot of others have made the decision to do so. They did not lose anything, their lives were not ruined, nor do they have any regrets. Furthermore, does it make sense that you sacrifice your own wellbeing and happiness in this life and in the hereafter just because you fear mockery or admonishment?